

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/009,747

Examiner

TUAN A PHAM

Applicant(s)

NOSSING, GERHARD

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/18/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 45-68.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 October 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 45-68 are allowed over the prior art of record.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's Remarks, filed on 10/14/2004, have been carefully reviewed with update search. Consequently, reasons for allowance of claims 45-68 are set forth in according to the applicant's remarks stated on page 9.

Pasetti et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,596,637) teaches an apparatus and method of a circuit for interference-proof detection in the operation of a grounding key comprising: a comparator configured to compare the detected current with at least one threshold value; wherein the comparator includes: a first comparator circuit configured to compare the detected current with an upper threshold value; and a second comparator circuit configured to compare the detected current with a lower threshold value, and a monitoring circuit configured to detect a first period when the current exceeds the threshold value; detect a second period when the current drops below the threshold value; and output a grounding key detection signal when the first period is greater than the second period.

Cotreau (U.S. Patent No.: 5,551,417) teaches a grounding key detector for SLIC is included a current detection device (i.e., SLIC) configured to detect a current flowing when the grounding key is in operation, and a comparator configured to compare the detected current with at least one threshold value.

Hoole (U.S. Patent No.: 4,156,797) teaches the grounding key circuit comprises a comparator configured to compare the detected current with at least one threshold value.

However, the prior art made of record, alone or in combination, fails to clearly teach or fairly suggest the arrangement of grounding key circuit comprises the monitoring circuit includes, inter alia, at least one internal counter configured to count up when the upper threshold value has been exceeded by the current and at least one internal counter configured to count down when the lower threshold value has not been exceeded by the current, as substantially described and connected to claims 45 and 61.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tuan A. Pham** whose telephone number is (571) 272-8097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499 and

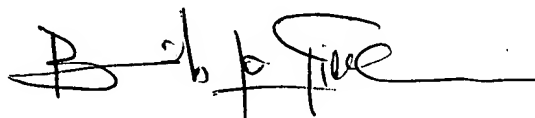
Art Unit: 2643

**IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE
CALL Customer Service at (571) 272-7499 FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have question on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit 2643
April 7, 2005
Examiner

Tuan Pham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Binh Tieu', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**BINH TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**